THE PRIVATE LEAGUE

Betwixt the

LATE KING *JAMES* II.

And The

FRENCH KING.

LICENS'D,

May 2. 1689.

J. Fraser.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

PRIVATE LEAGUE

BETWIXT

The Late King *JAMES* the Second,

AND THE

FRENCH KING.

In a LETTER from a Gentleman in *London*,
To a Gentleman in the Countrey.

LONDON:

Printed for **Ric. Chiswell**, at the *Rose* and *Crown* in St. *Paul's* Church-Yard. M DC LXXXIX.

Account of ye Private League wth ye French Ks ≡ Privat League betwixt Ks James & ye French Ks 1689.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE Private League

BETWIXT THE Late King JAMES the Second, and the *French* King.

In a Letter from a Gentleman in London *to a Gentleman in the Country.*

SIR,

I Am ſurpriz'd at the unbelief which your Letter informs me, has ſeiz'd ſome of your Neighbours, who after a publication in Print, that in the Year 1670. there was a League concluded between *Lewis* the Fourteenth, and *Charles* the Second, for the Introducing of Popery into *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, by overturning the Fundamental Laws of the Land, have the face ſtill to demand, where the ſo much talk'd of League is, between *Lewis* the Fourteenth, and *James* the Second. They complain, ſay you, that thoſe who had given them hopes of ſeeing the Original Treaty, have not been as good as their words. To ſpeak the truth, Sir, I find ſomething in this their unreaſonable proceeding, that at once ſurprizes and confounds me. I never knew that our Nation had the ill repute in the world of being ſenſeleſs and ſtupid: Our behaviour in a caſe that concern'd our Religion and Liberty, has made it conſpicuous to all *Europe*, that we know the importance of the one and the other, and that we are not inſenſible when ſuch dear Intereſts lye at ſtake. But in the mean time, what will all *Eu-*

rope think, when they hear that ſome *Engliſh* men do ſtill doubt of a matter ſo evident, and are reſolved to continue ſo, till they ſee the Original of that League produc'd, and have liberty to peruſe it. King *James* ſay they, has flatly denied that he had made any ſuch League with *France*. Firſt, By the Marquis *d'Albyville* at the *Hague*, 5. *Octob.* 1688. in the Memorial he preſented to the Deputies of the *States General*. Secondly, ſince the Prince of *Orange*'s Declaration had renewed this Suſpicion againſt him, the Earl of *Sunderland* hath lately writ from *Holland*, that he knew nothing of any ſuch League.

Theſe, forſooth, are the two convincing proofs they relye upon, who will needs doubt of this matter of fact, and who by theſe doubts againſt all ſenſe and reaſon, endeavour to make this truth paſs for ſuſpected. Well, ſuppoſe for once, that my Lord of *Sunderland* knew nothing of it, and if that which he pretends of his continual oppoſing himſelf againſt the Popiſh party be true, 'tis no ſtrange thing, if they were loath to commit their Secrets to him. But can his ignorance in a caſe which without imprudence was not to be communicated to him, becauſe of his great zeal for the Proteſtant Religion, and the intereſt of the State, be a ſufficient ground for us to call the matter in queſtion? King *James* the II. poſitively denies it. in the Memorial preſented to the *States* by the Marquis *d'Albyville*, and after that in the Anſwer which a Popiſh Lord has writ in his name to the Declaration of the *Prince* of *Orange*. And one would think all this might paſs for a palpable proof, and inconteſtable conviction of the falſeneſs of this pretended League. Will you give me leave, Sir, plainly to tell you, what my thoughts are of thoſe upon whom this Declaration of King *James* makes ſuch an Impreſſion, in ſpite of the Evidence they may have to the contrary. They ſeem plainly to me to renounce the uſe of their Reaſon, and to be willing that the reſt of Mankind ſhould in complaiſance to them, do ſo likewiſe. They cannot be ignorant, that King *James* II. has for many years been of the Jeſuits Fraternity, or at leaſt that he has been continually under the conduct of their Councils.

I can't believe their Memory is ſo ſhort to forget how at the time of his Shipwrack in going for *Scotland*, he ſuffered many Perſons of great Quality to periſh, that he might ſave ſome of his Fraternity of the Jeſuits Order, diſguis'd one

of

of them in the Habit of a *Valet de chambre*, and the other in that of a Cook. They know, that after he had made himself the Head of their Conspiracy against this Kingdom, whilst he was yet only Duke of *York*, the effect of this his being guided by the Jesuits, proved no less than the total overthrow of all the Laws which he had Sworn to maintain, at his coming to the Crown, as soon as he had got an opportunity to Execute those Projects with Authority, which the Love of his own Quiet, and fear of hazarding all, had made King *Charles* his Brother to Suspend: And yet after all this they can by no means induce themselves to believe that *James* II. should dare to deny by his Minister, that he was engaged in any League with *France*. Pray let us take a view of what he did, and therefore durst do, in contempt of the Laws of the Land, which he had Sworn to observe; he sends his Ambassador to *Rome*, to testifie his Obedience to the Pope. He gives way to a Nuncio from thence, to reside at his Court, in order to advance the Interest of the Church of *Rome*, which he could not do without being Perjur'd and Cruel; he makes a Jesuit one of his Privy Council, in the Face of all *England*, yea, of all the World, that is a Person guilty of High Treason, for having set his foot on English ground, and a Member of that Bloody Society, who became liable to the Punishment inflicted on Traitors, because of their Equivocations, Perjuries, and Conspiracies, which are the distinguishing Character of that Fraternity. And yet in spite of all this, we will believe *James* II. so scrupulous, as not daring to hide, or disguise a Truth, in a case, which the Interest of the Roman Church, and the designs he had Formed for that End with his Jesuits, did oblige him to keep most secret. Well, if it were so indeed, we must suppose it was a very difficult thing for that Prince to obtain a particular dispensation of the Pope, for this concealing of the Truth, if the general one, he had already obtain'd of him, for breaking his Coronation Oath, as made to Hereticks, would not serve the turn.

But pray, Sir, is not this a willful hoodwinking of our selves to lay any stress upon this Negation of *James* II. whilest we have a certain knowledg that there always was a strict League between the Duke of *York* and the *French* King; and to assure us, that this League has continued since the

the Duke of *York* has been advanced to the Crown of *England*. We have an Authentick Declaration of the *French* Ambaſſadour at the *Hague* very expreſs to that purpoſe. I ſay we cannot in the leaſt doubt, but that there always was a ſtrict League between the Duke of *York* and the *French* King. To be convinced of this, we need only to caſt an Eye upon the War of *Holland* in 1670. 'Tis certainly known 'twas a War of Religion undertaken meerly for the propagation of *Popery*. The *French* Miniſter manifeſted plainly in his Speech to the Emperours Council, which has been ſince Printed in *French*, that the *Hollanders* being Hereticks, who had forſaken their God, all good Chriſtians are bound to joyn and unite to extirpate them, and to implore Gods Bleſſing upon ſo good a Work. But how cunningly did they proceed in the Dukes Cabal, to diſſemble the part they had in ſuch a Deſign. 1. They reformed the *Cabinet Council*, and turn'd at once out of the *Committee* for Forreign Affairs, Prince *Rupert*, the Duke of *Ormond*, the Lord *Keeper*, *Trevor* the firſt Secretary of State, that was ever kept out of a Commiſſion of that nature. 2. They adviſed His Majeſty to Prorogue the Parliament according to the *French* Kings deſire. 3. They ſought a Quarrel againſt the *Dutch*, by ſending a Yatch with order to Sail through the *Dutch* Fleet, and require ſtriking to His Majeſties Flag: Although the *Dutch* Fleet was then at Anchor, not far from their own Coaſt. 4. They fell upon the *Dutch* Fleet of *Smyrna* without any Declaration of War, when the *Dutch* Ambaſſadours had offerred all poſſible ſatisfaction to the King upon this affected Quarrel. 5. The *Engliſh* Fleet fought for the *French* ſo bravely, and interpoſed themſelves between the *French* and the *Dutch* with ſo good a ſucceſs, that when the *Engliſh* Fleet, the Strength of our Nation, which was to be leſſen'd for the execution of their Deſignes, was reduced into a ſad condition, the *French* Squadron came off as freſh and as entire as when they firſt Sailed out of their Ports. 6. When they ſent the Duke of *Buckingham* and my Lord *Arlington* into *Holland*, they gave their inſtructions for the inſiſting in the behalf of the *French*, altho' the ſecond head of the *French* demands was upon a publick Exerciſe of the *Roman* Religion in the *United Provinces*, the Church to be divided, and the *Romiſh* Prieſts to have a maintainance out of the Publick Revenue.

After

After this we shall do well to make some reflections upon *Coleman*'s Letters to Sir *W. Throgmorton*, the Duke of *York*'s Agent at the Court of *France*. See how he expresses himself in one of them dated *February*, 167⅘. 'For you know 'well, that when the Duke comes to be Master of our Af- 'fairs, the King of *France* will have reason to promise 'himself all things that he can desire. For, according to 'the mind of the Duke, the Interest of the King of *Eng-* '*land*, the King of *France*, and his own, are so close bound up 'together, that it is impossible to separate them, the one 'from the other, without ruine to all three; but being 'joined, they must, notwithstanding all opposition, become 'invincible. Those who knew nothing of the League concluded between *England* and *France* in the Year 1670. were extreamly at a loss what to make of those words of *Coleman*, words so express and precise, as nothing could be said more. But they who have seen the extract of that League, published by the Abbot *Primi*, easily conceive, that they referred to the secret League of 1670. and that the reason why the *English* Court has been so industrious to maintain and cultivate the Union with *France*, was only in order to preserve those hidden Interests, they judged inseparable, though the true Interest of the State was indeed diametrically opposite to the entertaining any Union with a Crown, all whose designs were level'd at the ruine of *England* and the Protestant Religion.

We find much the same stile in a Letter of Father *la Chaise*, Jesuit and Confessor to *Lewis* the XIV. to *Coleman*. He saith, Page 110. 'That the *French* King con- 'siders his own Interest, and the Interest of the Duke 'of *York*, as one and the same thing; and that if the 'Duke would undertake to Dissolve the Parliament, the '*French* King would assist him, with his Power and Purse, 'to procure such an one afterwards, as might be favour- 'able to their designs. Now I should think, that when one offers ones Power and Purse to a Prince, that this supposes a Treaty with him, and that Prudence would not permit a King to write to a Prince to employ his Interest for Dissolving a Parliament of *England*, without knowing himself engaged in the greatest confidence with him. Some, it may be, will imagine that this was only an ordinary Treaty. But *Coleman* has expresst him-

ſelf ſo clearly in the Caſe, that he has not left us room to miſtake him. See what he writes to Father *la Chaiſe*, 'We have here a mighty work upon our hands, no leſs 'than the Converſion of three Kingdoms, and by that 'perhaps the ſubduing of a Peſtilent Hereſie, which has do-'mineer'd over a great part of the Northern World a long time. 'There were never ſuch hopes of Succeſs, ſince the Death 'of Queen *Mary*, as now in our days, when God has given 'us a Prince, who is become (may I ſay to a Miracle) 'zealous of being the Author and Inſtrument of ſo glorious 'a work, *pag.* 118. collect. of Letters. This was the grand deſign carried on in 1675, which makes it evident that the Treaty made by the Dutcheſs of *Orleans* was not forgot, but that the ſame was inviolably obſerv'd, and ſtuck to. Had we the other Letters of *Coleman* and Father *la Chaiſe*, as well as of the reſt of the Agents of the *Engliſh* Court, which *Coleman* declar'd were ſtill in *White-Hall*, when he was examin'd, where the reſt of theſe Letters were, it would be eaſie to judge, that matters have been ſtill carried on in the ſame ſtrain, between the Duke of *York* and the *French King*. There are Men enough that know, that the choice was made of the Letters that were to be publiſhed: they eclips'd and ſuppreſs'd thoſe, wherein the Court and Duke of *York* were more particularly concern'd. But without putting our ſelves to the trouble of gueſſing, we have but too many Evidences, to leave us the leaſt Shadow of a Doubt. Can we in *England* forget the things that paſt, at the time, when the Popiſh Plot was diſcovered by *Oates*, *Tedlow*, *Prance*, *Everard*, *Smith*, &c? Can we forget the indefatigable Pains the Duke of *York* took, to turn the Conſpiracy, in which he was ſo deeply concerned, upon the Presbyterians; as appears from *Dangerfield*'s Diſcovery, publiſhed *Anno Domini* 1678. Can we forego the remembrance of thoſe remarkable Events which happened ſoon after the Aſſaſſination of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*, the Sham put upon Mr. *Roderick Manſell*, the Depoſitions of *William Lewis* and *Laurence Mowbray*: The Oaths of Secrecy and the *Litany* of the Papiſts, publiſh'd by *Robert Bolron*? Can we forget the Conſpiracy of the Papiſts in *Ireland*, to ſubject that Kingdom to the *French* King, as long as we have before our Eyes the Narrative of *Thomas Sampſon* Printed 1680, and the Depoſitions of *Mac-namara*, *Fitzgerald* and *Naſh*, beſides the Pa-

pers,

pers, about the ſame Subject, ſent in 1680. by the Duke of *Ormond* to the Court. All theſe particulars appeared ſo evident to the Parliaments of *Weſtminſter* and *Oxford*, that they judged it impoſſible to reſerve for the Duke of *York* any hopes of his Succeſſion to the Crown; and that the Court Party and Favourers of the Duke, would have thought themſelves to have gain'd much, if the Duke, who was lookt upon as the Author of all theſe Intriegues might only have retain'd the Title of King, with leaving the whole Adminiſtration of the Government to the Prince of *Orange*.

We Engliſhmen, having ſince that, been ſo good natur'd, as to admit the Duke to the Crown, after the Death of King *Charles* II. whom the Papiſts had conſpir'd to Murther, on purpoſe to make place for the Duke: Let any one judge whether there be any likelihood, he ſhould have renounced his League with *France*, which he had always lookt upon as abſolutely neceſſary for the making his deſigns to bear: notwitſtanding a publick Neutrality that was to be held with *France*, as he was Guarantee of the Treaty of *Nimeguen*. After all this, a Man muſt have loſt both Senſe and Memory to ſuppoſe that he broke this Treaty ſince his coming to the Crown. Moreover we have ſeen *James* II. an unconcern'd ſpectator of *Lewis* XIV. ſeizing of *Orange*, and of the Deſolation of his Son-in-Law's Subjects, who were forced to embrace the *Romiſh* Religion, by the Violence of Dragoons. All *Europe* have ſeen the accomodation of the Buſineſs of *Bantam* ſuſpended, without any other Reaſon, but the deſign of having a Pretence in reſerve to break with the *Hollanders*; as alſo there were equal pains taken in 1670, to find out a plauſible one, to unite with *France*, and to ruine a State, which endeavour'd to preſerve the Liberty of *Europe*, and the *Proteſtant Religion*. We have ſeen JAMES II. affording the *Algerines* a free retreat into his Havens, and the Convoy of his Frigats, that they might ſafely carry away with them the *Dutch* and *French Proteſtants* they had taken between *England* and *Holland*. We have ſeen JAMES II. take the Government of *Ireland* from the Earl of *Clarendon*, to put it into the hands of the Earl of *Tyrconnel*, to the end he might new model the Army, by putting out Prote-

Proteſtants, and ſupplying their Places with Papiſts, as being more ſuited to carry on his Deſigns againſt *England* and *Ireland*. We have ſeen him ſend Prince *George* into *Denmark*, to hinder that Crown from joining with the Proteſtant Princes, and from quitting his Engagements with *France*, whoſe Aſſiſtance and Power were of abſolute neceſſity to him. And within his own Kingdom, what is it he hath not attempted, to advance his Deſigns and overthrow the Government in conformity to his Treaty with *France*, and the Directions of *Barillon*, his Ambaſſador? He has put all places of Strength into the Hands of *Papiſts*; he has kept on foot a numerous Army, to ſuppreſs all thoſe who might oppoſe his Deſigns; he has, againſt Law, eſtabliſhed an High Commiſſion-Court for Eccleſiaſtical Affairs, to violate the Rights of the Clergy and the Univerſities. He has introduced Popiſh Biſhops into *England*: He has allowed a free exerciſe of that Religion in all Places: All which things he durſt never have undertaken ſo openly, and with ſo high a Hand, had he not been ſupported with Hopes, derived from the Treaty he had with *Lewis* XIV. whoſe Arms he lookt upon as able to bring about the Deſigns he had projected ſo long ſince.

It ſeems to me, that theſe Proceedings are an abundant proof, that he was engaged in a League with *France*: But beyond all this, behold here another Argument, which cannot be gain-ſaid:

The French Ambaſſadour, the Count *d'Avaux*, was a publick Perſon at the *Hague*, he ſpoke, with order from the King his Maſter, and that in the Aſſembly of the States General; he there peremptorily declares the Ninth of *September* laſt, That there was an Alliance between the King his Maſter and *James* the Second; he makes uſe of this League to interpoſe himſelf, by his Maſter's Command, upon an occaſion; when *Lewis* XIV. believ'd, that the States were forming ſome Enterpriſe againſt *James* the Second: He delivers his Memorial to the States, and communicates it to the reſt of the Ambaſſadors, at the *Hague*, *Sept.* the 9th. The Memorial was conceiv'd in theſe Terms:

The

THe *ſincere Deſire the King my Maſter hath to maintain the Peace of* Europe, *will not permit his Majeſty to be a Spectator of the Great Preparations your H. & M. Lordſhips are making by Land and by Sea, without taking thoſe Meaſures wherewith his Prudence, the inſeparable Companion of all his Actions, doth inſpire him, to prevent the Miſchiefs which without doubt will be the Conſequence of them.*

And tho' the King be well aſſured of the Wiſdom of your Counſels, and that it is not to be imagined, that a Commonwealth ſhould lightly betake themſelves to Arms, and kindle a War, which at this Juncture cannot but prove fatal to all Chriſtendom; *yet his Majeſty cannot believe, that your H. and M. Lordſhips would ever engage your ſelves in ſo great Expences, as well within as without your State, or ſuffer ſo many Foreign Troops to enter your Country, and in a Seaſon ſo far ſpent put ſo numerous a Fleet to Sea, or prepare ſo vaſt a Warlike Train, in caſe they had not formed a Deſign correſponding to the Greatneſs of thoſe Preparations.*

All theſe Circumſtances, My Lords, and ſo many more which I muſt not here relate, perſuade the King my Maſter, that theſe Preparations have an eye to England: *And therefore the King my Maſter has charged me in his Name to declare, That* the Engagements of Friendſhip and Alliance which he has with the King of Great Britain, *will not only oblige him to ſuccour him, but alſo to conſider the firſt Act of Hoſtility your Ships or Land-Forces ſhall exert againſt his* Britannick *Majeſty, as a manifeſt Breach of Peace, and open Rupture with his Crown.*

I leave it, My Lords, to the Prudence of Your H. and M. Lordſhips, to conſider the Conſequences of ſuch like Undertakings: And his Majeſty has ordered me to make this Declaration to you in his Name, no otherwiſe than in the ſincere Intention he has (as I have often had the Honour to declare to you) to prevent whatſoever might trouble the Peace of Europe.

Subſcribed,

Done at the *Hague*, the 9th. *Septemb.* 1688.

The Count d'Avaux.

Than which, as it seems to me, nothing can be said more plain and expres. What does the *English* Embassador hereupon? Some days after he presents a Memorial to the Estates, and this plainly of concert with the *French* Embassador, because this his second Memorial did refer to that which the *French* Embassador Presented; and contents himself to assure them, that *James* the Second had no Treaty with *France*, but what was made Publick. See here the Memorial of the Marquis *de Albyville*.

THE underwritten Envoy Extraordinary from the King of Great Britain, *has received Order to represent to your Lordships, that although His Majesty had believed, that what he had already declared to your Embassador in* England, *and the Orders he had given to his said Envoy Extraordinary upon the same Subject, might have satisfied your Lordships, that there is no other Treaty between His Majesty and the Most Christian King, than those that are Publick and in Print. Yet since a great deal of Artifice and Industry has been made use of, to make the world believe, that the King his Master is entred into other Treaties and Alliances with the Most Christian King; His Majesty, to shew the great regard he has to the Friendship and Alliances which are between him and your Lordships, and his desire to continue the same, has commanded the said Envoy Extraordinary, in his Name, to assure your Lordships that there is no other Treaty between His Majesty and the Most Christian King, than those that are Publick and in Print. And farther that as His Majesty extreamly desires the preservation of the Peace and Repose of Christendom, so he shall also be glad to take such measures with your Lordships, as may be most convenient for maintaining the Peace of Nimeguen, and the Truce of Twenty years, concluded in* 1684.

Given at the *Hague* the Fifth of *October* 1688.

This Memorial pleasured the World with a fit of Laughter, to see it so contrary to the Memorial of the *French* Embassador, notwithstanding he was very well acquainted with the Contents of the Memorial presented before by the Count *de Avaux*. But for all that, both the Marquis *de Albyville*, and those who had dictated the *French* Memorials, spake nothing but the Truth. The Marquis

quiſs maintains, in the Name of the King, that there was no Treaty between *England* and *France*, but thoſe that are in Print; the Count *de Avaux* Aſſerts, that *Lewis* the Fourteenth is engaged in an Alliance with *James* the Second, and both of them ſpeak true. The Count *de Avaux* ſpeaks with reſpect to the Treaty of 1670. betwixt *Charles* the Second and *Lewis* the Fourteenth, and ſuppoſes, as indeed it cannot be doubted, that the ſaid Treaty has continued ever ſince, with deſign to deſtroy *England* and the Proteſtant Religion, which at firſt gave birth to the ſaid League. He builds upon this Principle, That the D. of *York*, who was the great Promoter of it, and who, whilſt he was in that Station, acted in Conformity with the ſaid ſecret Treaty, had ſufficiently ratified the ſame ſince his coming to the Crown; which Promotion of his was therefore ſo Paſſionately deſired, to the end he might more vigorouſly execute the ſaid Treaty, which *Charles* II. did not, for fear of troubling his own Repoſe. The Marquiſs *de Albyville*, knowing that this Treaty had been Printed at *Paris* 1682. in the Hiſtory of the War of *Holland* by the *Abbot Primi*, but ſoon after ſuppreſt at the Inſtances of my Lord *Preſton*, ſuppoſed he might ſay with a good Conſcience, with reſpect to the ſelf-ſame Treaty, That his Maſter had no Treaty with *France*, but what was in Print. So that the ſeeming Contradiction vaniſheth, as ſoon as we conſider the Perſons that ſpeak. The one is the Miniſter of *Lewis* XIV. who is not at all careful to husband the Intereſts of his Allies, and who thinks he may ſpeak whatſoever pleaſes him, as he thinks he can compaſs whatſoever he wills, and accordingly declares the Truth with a great deal of Frankneſs and Liberty: The other is the Miniſter of *James* II. whom the Society of the Jeſuits and their Maxims, have model'd for diſguiſing the Truth; and therefore dares not expoſe it, but under covert of an Equivocation; by which means, if he owns that which is true, he reſerves himſelf always the means, and the right of denying it, when the owning of it might prove a prejudice to him.

But not to make any further Enlargement here upon the Jeſuitical Character, of which the Marqueſs *d'Albyville* had a competent ſhare, without which Qualification he would ſcarcely have been made choice of for an Extraordinary Envoy: For my part, I cannot ſee how any thing could more evidently confirm the Truth, than

than the foreſaid Memorial of the Count *d' Avaux*, wherein he poſitively declares, that there was an Alliance between *Lewis* XIV. and *James* II. And I cannot ſee, how the moſt reſolved Prejudice can object ought againſt this Proof, beſides theſe Three Things, which are equally ridiculous:

The Firſt is, That King *James* II. is not bound to make good the Words of a *French* Ambaſſador, ſpoke at random.

Secondly, That the Reaſon why the *Engliſh* Ambaſſador did not more punctually contradict the *French* Memorial, proves only at the moſt, That he was willing enough to ſee the *Hollanders* affrighted with the Apprehenſion of this Secret Alliance between both thoſe Kings, though he did not think fitting to confirm the Belief of that League, by the Memorial he preſented to the *States General* the 5th. of *October*; whence it follows, That it may be there was no ſuch League at all, notwithſtanding the *French* Ambaſſador thought neceſſary to advance ſuch a thing, contrary to Truth.

The *Third*, is, That if the Marquiſs *d' Albyville*, were Guilty of ſome Fault on this occaſion, that it is not juſt to lay the blame of it upon his Maſter; and the rather, becauſe he was never look'd upon as a very able, and refin'd Miniſter.

But in anſwer to theſe, *Firſt*, The World knows, That the Memorial of the *French* Ambaſſador, was contrived at *Paris*, with the Concurrence of Mr. *Skelton*, the Ambaſſador of *James* II. So that we cannot pretend, that this Declaration was made by the *French* King, without knowledge of the K. of *England*. And tho Mr. *Skelton*, upon his return from *France*, was committed to the *Tower*, for having had a hand in that Memorial, yet we know this was only a Pretext, being ſet at Liberty a few days after, and made Colonel of a Regiment; and not long after, returning thither, not as a Priſoner, but to be the Governour of it: All which makes it as clear as the Sun, that this was only a feigned Impriſonment, and not the Puniſhment of an unfaithful diſcharge of a Truſt. *2dly*, I can no way conceive, how any can imagine, that the *French* K. ſhould take the Liberty peremptorily

to

to assert an Alliance, when there was nothing at all of it, only because he thought it was his Interest so to do; and that at the same time it was not permitted to *James* II. to dissemble, in a Case where such a Dissimulation was of use to him. But I go further, and say, That for to discover the Mystery of the affected Dissimulation of the English Ambassador about the League with *France*, we need only to examine the Behaviour of *James* II. after that Declaration of the *French* Ambassador to the *States General*. If the *French* Ambassador, or the King his Master, had advanced an Untruth, in declaring that there was an Alliance between *Lewis* XIV. and *James* II. which could not be without an Infraction of the Treaty of *Nimeguen*, of which the King of *England* was declared Guarantee, was it not of absolute necessity for K. *James* to disavow that Untruth, as soon as he was inform'd what had past at the *Hague*? Ought he not to have made Reparation of the Fault the Marquess *d' Albyville* had committed, by ordering him to explain himself fully about the false Supposal of the *French* Ambassador? Was it not visible, that his Honour was extreamly concern'd in the Declaration of *France*; and that it was contrary to his Word given to the *States General*, after his arrival to the Crown, and which he had so often since renewed to their Ambassador in Ordinary? Was it not natural for him to express himself plainly, instead of suppressing the Fact, as it was done in the *English Gazette*, published by the Authority of the Court, and reviewed by his Ministers; where we find indeed the Memorial of the Marquess *d' Albyville*, given into the *States* the 5*th* of *October*, but not a word of the Memorial of the Count *d' Avaux*, presented before. Who sees not that this his Silence, after the Declaration of the *French* Ambassador, is an evident and solid Conviction of the Truth of the League between him and *France*? For any one to answer the Objection, by saying, that K. *James* II. did disavow the thing openly, in his Answer to the Prince of *Orange*'s Declaration, is to say nothing that may satisfy a Man of Reason. Every Thing hath its Time; a Man that holds his peace, when he ought to speak in his own Justification, is presum'd to be convict of the Thing laid to his Charge. 'Tis a Maxim of the Civil Law, that *to evident Presumption, Proofs must be oppos'd*: Wherefore in the Case he was indispensibly obliged to deny the Fact whereof he was accused, and to refute it, at that Time, and in those Circumstances; for that Opportunity being once let slip,

his denying cannot be look'd upon otherwiſe, than as the Effect of Fears, and extream Neceſſity, which often obliges Men to diſguiſe and deny the Truth. And ſurely if we only pleaſe to caſt an Eye upon the Deſign he had of delivering *Portſmouth* to the *French*, and ſuffering ſeveral of their Regiments to take poſſeſſion of it; which Affair took up much of the Time of the Secret Council in *October* and *November* 1687. we cannot with any Reaſon doubt of the Truth of this Secret League between *Lewis* XIV, and *James* II. The Thing was not ſo ſecretly carried, but that the different Advices given thereupon, came to the knowledg of ſome, as well as the Names of the Authors of them, and the Reaſon which hindred the King from following them in that Circumſtance. The Hopes which he had of getting a Parliament to his mind, that is, ſuch an one as might overthrow the Laws of the Government, that was oppoſite to Popery and Tyranny, was the chief Reaſon, as is well known to many Perſons of Quality, that hindred him from taking a Reſolution to make us feel the Effects of that League, before it was declared in Publick.

Let us alſo caſt an Eye upon all the Proceedings of *James* II. till his retiring to *France*, as well as upon thoſe of *Lewis* XIV, in favour of him, and we ſhall find them all but ſo many Effects and Conſequences of the Secret League. *Lewis* XIV, always influenc'd the Court of *England* in the Time of *Charles* II, during whoſe Reign *England* could not but be ſenſible of the Effects of the Secret Treaty of 1670, by the War againſt the *Hollander*, by the frequent Diſſolutions of her Parliaments, and at length ſaw the whole Myſtery laid open, in the Conſpiracy of *Coleman*, Secretary to the Duke of *York*, who acted nothing without expreſs Order of his Maſter. Since this, it is become notorious to all, that *Charles* II. who went under the Name of a Proteſtant, and who, notwithſtanding his outward Profeſſion, did, by Secret Treaties, deſign the overthrow of the Proteſtant Religion within his three Kingdoms, died a profeſt Papiſt: And after all this, cannot we perſwade our ſelves to believe that *James* II. a declared Papiſt, who had a *Nuncio* to prompt him, and a *Jeſuit* to counſel him, did confirm or renew a Treaty with *Lewis* XIV, for the Deſtruction of the Proteſtant Religion in the Kingdom, eſpecially when all his three Kindoms are Witneſs, that for the advancing of Popery, he has neither had any regard to the Laws of the Land, nor to the Oaths he had taken to preſerve them. Thus much I aſſert boldly, that ſince it cannot

Memorandum, *about the Propoſition made to the* States *by the* Engliſh *Ambaſſador*, 1672.

not

not be deny'd, but that there was a Secret Treaty betwixt *Lewis* XIV, and *James* II, we can leſs doubt, but that the End and Aim of the Treaty, was the Ruin of the Proteſtant Religion.

1. We muſt needs conclude ſo from the Secret Treaty manag'd by the Dutcheſs of *Orleans*, between *Charles* II. and *Lewis* XIV. publiſhed by Abbot *Primi*, in his Hiſtory of the War with *Holland*, with privileg of the French King. This Treaty expreſly tells us, that the French King did promiſe *Charles* II. to ſubject his Parliament to him, and to re-eſtabliſh the Romiſh Religion in his Kingdoms. We may eaſily gueſs whether theſe Things could be accompliſh'd any other way than by Force of Arms, that is, by the Violence and Cruelty of his Dragoons.

2. Who is ſo blind as not to ſee that K. *Charles* II. had ever ſince that Treaty, caſt about to furniſh himſelf with Foreign Force to enſlave his Subjects to his Arbitrary Power? Thoſe who find difficulty to believe this, need only to conſider the Secret Treaty he had made with *Spain*, who was to furniſh him with 8000 Men upon occaſion; and it was to aſſure himſelf of their good Service, that *Charles* II. demanded Mony of his Parliament in 1680.

3. Can we be ſo wilful, as not to trace the Current of the Deſign throughout all *Coleman*'s Letters, which contain nothing elſe but the Conſpiracy of the Jeſuits and Duke of *York*, againſt the Government, and the Proteſtant Religion.

4. After that *James* II. came to the Crown, notwithſtanding the Juſt Oppoſitions of the Commons in the *Weſtminſter* and *Oxford* Parliaments, who eaſily foreſaw all that is ſince come to paſs; did not he give undoubted Evidence, that he ſtill followed the ſame Meaſures, when after the Defeat of *Monmouth*, he declared to the Parliament, that for Time to come, he would make uſe of Popiſh Officers, as well as keep an Army on foot, contrary to the Laws?

5. Have we not ſeen the whole bottom of his Deſigns unravell'd, by the Care he took to fill that Army with *Iriſh* Papiſts at the ſame time that he disbanded all that Proteſtant Army and Souldiers that ſerved him in *Ireland*, that he might always have an Army at hand in that Kingdom for to invade *England*. It appears beyond a poſſibility of doubting, that all theſe Proceedings were only founded on the Continuation of a Deſign, which could never be executed without a ſecret League with *France*, and without a very expreſs Aſſurance of being vigorouſly ſupported from thence when the nick of time ſhould come. I do not here ſet down only Suppoſals and Gueſſes in the Air, when I aſſert that this League was to prove of moſt fatal Conſequence to the Government and Proteſtant Religion. For, pray tell me what elſe can be ſuppoſed from a Union with *Lewis* XIV, when we have ſeen him, after having violated the Laws of his Kingdom, and the Oaths he had taken, exerciſing ſo outragious and barbarous a Cruelty againſt his own Proteſtant Subjects, as well as againſt thoſe of his Neighbours in *Piedmont*, and the Principality of *Orange*. Give me leave to make one other Reflection more, *viz.* That it is altogether incredible, if *James* II had not been ſtrictly leagued with *France* by ſuch a League as they were pleaſed to term Sacred, but that he muſt have acted after another manner in favour of the Prince of *Orange*, whoſe Subjects were oppreſt by the French King, and his Principality ravaged, in order to the rooting out of the Proteſtant Religion there. His ſoft way of treating this matter with the Court of *France* was ſo publick a Teſtimony of the Intelligence he held with *Lewis* about deſtroying the Proteſtant Religion, that we muſt of force conclude that *James* II. was conſcious to a Treaty which was of greater Concern to him, than all the Obligations of Blood or Alliance, which ought otherwiſe to have made him the Protector of the Prince of *Orange*, his Nephew and Son-in-Law, and conſequently the Husband of the Preſumptive Heireſs of the Kingdom. I only touch at theſe Points, and I paſs over many others that evince the ſame Truth. As for thoſe affected doubts which you tell me do remain ſtill in the Minds of ſome of your Friends; they ſeem to me to be of the nature of thoſe that troubled the *Phariſees*, and of whom we ſay, that ſeeing they ſee and do not perceive, becauſe they are reſolved not to yield to the moſt clear and inconteſtable Truths. I bewail their Condition who ſo wilfully blind and hoodwink themſelves, and I wiſh they may never be undeceived if nothing leſs will do it than by the *French* King's ſending over his booted Apoſtles with the Original of the League he has with *James* II into *England*, as he has already done into *Ireland*, of which I preſume by this time, neither Papiſt nor Proteſtant has the leaſt doubt.

Sir, I am Yours.

Advertiſement of Books lately Printed.

AN Account of the Reaſons which induced *Charles* the Second, King of *England*, to declare War againſt the *States General* of the United Provinces in 1672. And of the *Private League* which he entred into at the ſame Time with the *French King* to carry it on, and to eſtabliſh Popery in *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, as they are ſet down in the *Hiſtory of the Dutch War*, printed in *French* at *Paris*, with the Priviledg of the French King, 1682. Which Book he cauſed to be immediately ſuppreſs'd at the Inſtance of the Engliſh Ambaſſador. *Folio.*

The Deſign of Enſlaving *England*, diſcovered, in the Incroachments upon the Powers and Priviledges of Parliament, by King *Charles* the Second. 4o.

A Letter written by a Clergy-Man to his Neighbour concerning the preſent circumſtances of the Kingdom, and the Allegiance that is due to the King and Queen.

The Caſe of Allegiance in our preſent Circumſtances conſidered, in a Letter from a Miniſter in the City to a Miniſter in the Country.

A Sermon preached at *Fulham*, in the Chappel of the Palace, upon *Eaſter*-Day 1689. at the Conſecration of the Right Reverend Father in God *Gilbert* Lord Biſhop of *Sarum*: By *Anthony Hornuck*, D. D.

Some Conſiderations touching Succeſſion and Allegiance.

A Diſcourſe concerning the Worſhip of Images; preached before the Univerſity of *Oxford*. By *George Tully*, Sub-Dean of *York*, for which he was procured to be ſuſpended by *Obadiah Walker*.

Reflections upon the late Great Revolution: Written by a Lay-Hand in the Country, for the Satisfaction of ſome Neighbours.

The Hiſtory of the Diſſertion; or an Account of all the publick Affairs in *England*, from the beginning of *September*, 1688. to the Twelfth of *February* following. With an Anſwer to a Piece call'd the Diſſertion diſcuſſed, in a Letter to a Country Gentleman. By a Perſon of Quality.